

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 14, line 31 and ending on page 15, line 3 with the following paragraph:

-- Figure 8 shows the operational flow for one embodiment of the auto-synchronize operation 326 of Figure 7. The auto-sync flow has three phases, shown in three columns in Figure [[7]] 8, -- port conflict fix 350, connect conflict fix 360 and trail conflict fix 370. Port refers to the ports in network elements. Connect refers to cross-connects between ports or connects in segments. Trail refers to the entire path from end point to end point in a network service. The auto-sync works on port-conflicts first, then connect-conflicts and finally trail-conflicts. Each phase proceeds in a like manner and the like operations in each phase will be described together. --

NB2/26/07 Please replace the paragraph starting at page ¹⁵14, line ¹³31 and ending on page ²⁵15, line 3 with the following paragraph:

-- From each automated conflict fix operation there are two exit paths. In one path it is determined that a fix is not available so the operation flow proceeds to the next phase. In the other path, a fix is available and attempted. This path exits respectively to conflict fixed test operations 354, 364, and 374. Each conflict test operation detects whether its associated conflict fix operation was successful in resolving the conflict. If it was successful, the operation flow branches YES to the next phase or lastly returns to the operation flow in Figure 7. If it was not successful, the operation flow branches NO to the retry operation 355, 365 and 375. If there are more choices to resolve the conflict, the choice is executed, and the operation flow returns to compare operation 351, 361 and 371. The conflict is again checked and if there is a conflict, an auto fix is attempted. If the automatic fix is not successful, and there are no more choices, the operation flow branches NO from the retry operation to the associated flag conflict operation -- flag port conflict operation [[355]] 356, flag connect conflict operation [[365]] 366 or flag trail conflict operation [[375]] 376. After the conflict is flagged, the operation flow returns to Figure 7. --